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as interesting and as important as the path followed by Mr. Benton in his painstaking investigations of this "forgotten chapter".

C. S. T.

*Reconstruction in Texas.* By Charles William Ramsdell, Ph.D. (Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Laws, Vol. XXXVI, No. 1]. (New York; Columbia University Press, 1910, pp. 324).

Most of the information in this monograph was obtained from Government publications, contemporary newspapers, and various important manuscript sources, which are listed in the Bibliography. Among these are the Johnson Papers, the Reconstruction Correspondence of General Griffin and General Reynolds, and the voluminous files of letters written to the provisional Governors of the state.

The situation in Texas throughout the war and the Reconstruction period was in many ways peculiar. At the outbreak of the war for secession from the Union, the state, as a member of the Union, was scarcely more than fifteen years old. "Standing between the old South and the new West, partaking of the character of both, every year of slavery saw her drawn closer to the former; and it was inevitable that she should soon find herself in the political current setting so strongly toward secession". Throughout the war there was a strong Unionist sentiment, although "when once the war was fairly on, most of those who had opposed the measures which brought it about, yielded and gave their support to the state and the new government". The military operations in the state "were never extensive and were confined to the border, and they therefore left no such reconstruction problems in their train as existed in the other states". Only in the problems of negro emancipation did the work of reconstruction bear a close resemblance to the task with which the older states on the seaboard were confronted.

Three introductory chapters of the book treat briefly

of "The Secession Movement", "Texas during the War", and "The Break-up", when the armed forces of the state deserted from the field after the surrender of Lee, and retired to their homes, bringing with them panic and riot and turbulent lawlessness. Part I. treats of "Presidential Reconstruction", with the constitutional convention of 1866 and the restoration of the state government. Part II. covers the "Congressional Reconstruction", from the Act of March 2, 1867, to the readmission of the state in 1870, when, "after nine years, tumultuous with political and social revolution, she was back again in the Union with her sister states". An "Epilogue" on "Radical Rule and its Overthrow" concludes the book, relating the four-year political strife between Republicans and Democrats, and Conservatives, until "the state was once more really in the hands of her own people".

The entire process of reconstruction in Texas was marked by factional politics, the natural result of the earlier history of the state, which engendered much ill-feeling. Soon after the close of the war, "the approach of Federal troops and the return of numbers of refugees emboldened the Unionists in many localities to form Union associations that did not hesitate to take up a partisan attitude", one such organization even pledging itself "to vote for no man for office who had ever by free acts of his own tried to overthrow the government, but to support Union men always". The radicals, failing to control the convention of 1866, planned "to align themselves with the ultraradical element in Congress in its evident intention of re-establishing military rule over the South and enforcing political equality between whites and negroes". The conflict became more heated during the convention of 1868-1869, the main points at issue being the "*ab-initio*" doctrine (the long-continued, hot controversy over which forms a very interesting chapter in political history) and the division of the state.

Future students of reconstruction will be grateful to Dr. Ramsdell for his interesting and reasonably complete ac-

count of the political aspects of reconstruction in Texas. The main criticism to be made of the book is that the political issues are somewhat over-emphasized, at the expense of the social and economic situation. With exception of a few short sections which are devoted to labor conditions and problems pertaining to emancipation, the work is entirely political. Notwithstanding the peculiar political interest attached to the period, we should have been glad to have more information concerning the conditions of the people, the problems of internal administration of a huge state with a somewhat turbulent population in some sections, and the attitude of the people in general toward the issues raised by the Federal reconstruction demands. C. S. T.

*Virginia Under the Stuarts,* 1607-1688. By Thomas J. Wertenbaker, Ph.D. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1914. pp. XI, 271).

The words with which the author of this monograph begins his Preface, lead the reader to expect something in the nature of a revolutionary treatment of early Virginia history, in which the errors of previous writers will be exposed and corrected. "During the past few decades a flood of light has been thrown upon Virginia colonial history. Many letters, reports and other manuscripts have been unearthed, and in some cases, printed. Monographs, editions of old texts, legislative journals have been given to the public. Investigators have studied thoroughly statements and conclusions reiterated for centuries, and have proved them erroneous or misleading. What have long been considered the fundamental facts in the history of the establishment of the nation have been attacked and overthrown. The author, in the present volume, has attempted to re-write the political history of Virginia from the founding of Jamestown to the English Revolution of 1688, in a form that will make these newly discovered facts available to the general reader".

Dr. Wertenbaker has, indeed, made full use of many important sources, and has added much to our previous knowl-